

RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 5:52 pm, Jan 14, 2025

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will be conducted under S. 2475, *An act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency*, signed June 16, 2021, which was extended by legislation enacted on July 16, 2022, and was extended by legislation enacted on March 24, 2023. The public can view this meeting on ACTV Channel 12, the ACTV website or their Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

Chair Amanda Jones called the December 3, 2024, Virtual Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020, Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Conservation Commission on August 1, 2022, is being conducted via remote participation.

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort is being made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

A reminder that persons who would like to like to watch this meeting can do so on ACTV Channel 12, the ACTV website or the City of Amesbury Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/amesburyma

To submit a public comment, you may do so on the Facebook Live feed by beginning your comment with PUBLIC COMMENT. It will be read aloud at the appropriate time. Viewers may also email conservation@amesburyma.gov to submit a public comment.

Members of the public may dial into Microsoft Teams at: +1 323-457-5649,,298442669#

Access Code: 298 442 669#

Chair Amanda Jones notes that tonight's Conservation Commission meeting is being recorded by Amesbury Public Access Television; this legal step has been taken but does not act as the official record. The written meeting minutes by the Recording Secretary is the official record.

Attendance: Jaime McCarthy, Fred Zackon, and Amanda Jones

Also in attendance: Recording Secretary Lynn Viselli, and Alison McKay, Conservation Agent

Transcription by: Lynn Viselli

Chair Jones takes attendance for the record:

Fred Zackon	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES
Amanda Jones	YES

Continued Business:

NOI 002-1337 31 Newton Road

The Applicant's representative has requested a continuance to the next January 6, 2025, meeting to allow time to respond to the stormwater peer review.

A motion was made by F. Zackon to continue NOI 002-1337 31 Newton Road to January 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and unanimously approved by Rollcall vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

NOI 002-1340 58 Pleasant Valley Road

This was continued to allow for a site visit, receipt of a more species-specific invasive species management and removal plan. The site visit was conducted on November 19th with Commissioners McCarthy and Zackon, Conservation staff and Mike Derosa. The revised plan showing a more specific species invasive management and removal plan has been received. A letter from NHESP has been received allowing the planting of Coastal Red Fescue and Coneflower, but not Black-Eyed Susan, which will be removed from the planting list. The information requested has been received.

The Order of Conditions shall include the conditions listed in the NHESP letter and special conditions including bank restoration to be completed during low tide, permanently marking the 10' vegetated buffer strip/plantings and 2-year monitoring for 2 full growing seasons for the plantings.

A motion was made to approve waivers for work within the 25' no disturb zone and within the buffer zone by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

Mr. Sheehan, an abutter, asked if any mitigation plantings would take place within the ROW easement used by the abutters. This proposed work will not impact the ROW easement.

A motion was made to issue the OOC 002-1340 58 Pleasant Valley Road by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

A motion was made to close the public hearing NOI 002-1340 58 Pleasant Valley Road by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

ANRAD 002-1341 118 Pleasant Valley Road

This was continued from the November meeting for receipt of revised plans per DEP comments. The revised plans have been received showing the MHW delineated in the field and the 100'/200' offsets to the MHW flags.

Thor Akerley stated that the property owners are looking to rebuild the home and the ANRAD will assist with that process. He reviewed the existing conditions on site and the revised plan provided.

J. McCarthy asked if Staff had reviewed the new flagging and if the Special Conditions should include the language that the vernal pools will be evaluated during the Spring when the NOI is filed.

A motion was made to issue the ORAD as discussed for ANRAD 002-1341 118 Pleasant Valley Road by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

NEW BUSINESS:

NOI 002-1342 I-495 Mass DOT

The proposed project is for the maintenance of the drainage infrastructure along a portion of I-495 NB between I-495 and South Hunt Road. Removal of built-up sediment and debris and reestablish the 4-foot-wide drainage trench approximately 1080 linear feet in length. All of the work is proposed within the existing State Highway layout. The proposed work is filed as a limited project under WPA for maintenance/improvement of existing public roads and maintenance and repair of road drainage. The work is subject to the provision of DEP Stormwater Management Standards.

Sam Campbell reviewed the proposed project. Removal of the sediment and debris will be done by mechanical excavation within the trench. The sediment and debris removed from the trench will be hauled away and disposed of at an appropriate location off site. Erosion controls will be in place. Temporary impacted areas will be restored in place using native seed mix. There is now work proposed within the wetland system. DEP had no comments.

A motion was made to issue the OOC for NOI 002-1342 I-495 Mass DOT by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

A motion was made to close the public hearing for NOI 002-1342 I-495 Mass DOT by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

RCOC 002-1235 118 Pleasant Valley Road

Thor Akerley informed the Commission that the septic system was installed in 2019 when the home was sold. There is one variation from the approval, that the leach field and associated low vent were installed slightly closer to the "B" series wetland. All exposed soils and lawn area have been stabilized. The gravel driveway which was approved has been paved by the current owner sometime between 2021 and 2022.

Staff agreed to address the paving of the driveway when an NOI is filed for the rebuild of the house.

J. McCarthy agreed that the driveway needs to be addressed.

A. McKay stated that a site visit would be helpful to determine the mitigation once the NOI is filed.

Michael, the property owner, spoke regarding a historic paved driveway and the removal of hazard trees.

A motion was made to issue COC 002-1235 118 Pleasant Valley Road was made by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

Administrative:

Minutes – Approve Minutes for 11/4/2024 meeting.

Discussion of corrections and amendments took place.

A motion to approve the amended Minutes of 11/4/2024 as presented by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

WPA Funds – Table.

Chapter 61A 22 Woodman Road

The Commission has received a Notice of Intent that the premises is for sale and currently taxed under Chapter 61A. Pursuant to Chapter 61A, the Conservation Commission and other City entities have the option to purchase the land by right of first refusal. The parcel is 10 acres with no significant or sensitive environmental features on the parcel.

A motion was made to not exercise the right of first refusal for 22 Woodman Road by F. Zackon. The motion was seconded by J. McCarthy and approved by Rollcall vote:

Chair Jones called the Rollcall Vote:

Fred Zackon	YES
Amanda Jones	YES
Jaime McCarthy	YES

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jones at 7:27pm.

The next scheduled meeting is January 6, 2025.

Submitted by: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary

Per the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the list of documents that were either distributed to the Amesbury Conservation Commission before the meeting in the packet or at the meeting are as follows:

- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Agenda Guide.**